



MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

Learning Seminar on Sustainable Tourism & Coastal Environment, Bandos Island Resort, Maldives, 26th October 2011, 1300-1545 hrs.

Permanent Secretary, Ahmed Salih addresses above seminar initiated by Mangrove for the Future (MFF).

Male, October 27, 2011: Permanent Secretary of MOTAC gave a brief statement about the tourism development in the Maldives and how it contributed and continue to play a vital role in the economic development of the Maldivian economy. In his statement, he highlighted that Maldivian tourism industry is a private sector initiative and the industry has evolved with a very strong partnership between the private sector and the government. He shared with the delegates, the initiatives tourism industry took to ensure the sustainability of the industry in areas of protecting and preserving the natural environment of the resort islands, waste disposal, energy conservation etc.

Entitled "Sustainable Tourism and the coastal Environment" the central idea of the seminar was to create a platform whereby lessons could be learned from the best practices in the area of sustainable coastal tourism practices in the Maldives. Representatives from Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts, Six Senses Resorts and Spas, John keels Hotels, Aitken Spence Hotels, Taj Resorts and Palaces, and Four Season Resorts shared some of the excellent initiatives in the area of sustainable tourism development and the linkages with their neighboring communicates with the private sector participants, state and association partners, RSC participants, and technical experts.

Challenges and possible solutions faced by the tourism industry were also discussed and ideas were exchanged on possible solutions.